

Febuary 2007 Newsletter

Native Plant Society of Texas - South Texas Chapter



Feb. 1st – Monthly Meeting – Guest Speaker Dr. Roy L. Lehman

Our monthly meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 1st, 7 p.m. at the Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Drive, Corpus Christi.

Several members came a little early last month and had a nice chat before the meeting. Please feel free to come as early as 6:30 p.m. to visit with Ann and other members.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Roy L. Lehman. He is a Professor of Biology and Director of the Laguna Madre Field Station of Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. Dr. Lehman will speak on local & native salt tolerant plants.

Our Next Meeting is
March 1st

Speaker - T.B.A.

Chapter Updates

Renewed Memberships

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Margaret Souby & Jeremy Smith of Corpus Christi
Paul & Mary Meredith of Victoria
James R. Cravens, Jr. of Refugio
Ann Hoch of Corpus Christi
John E. Fucik of Port Aransas

New Memberships

Welcome to our new member!

Ann Craig of Robstown

Do You Have INFO???

Do you know of an upcoming book release, workshop, lecture, or information that would be of interest to the local NPSOT members? If so, email the information to Shelly Maher at shelly_maher@hotmail.com. If applicable and space permits, it can be included in our monthly newsletter.

Upcoming Events at the South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center (361) 852-2100
www.ccbotanicalgardens.org

- NEW WINTER LECTURE SERIES FOR RESIDENTS & WINTER TEXANS
Guest speakers will present unique perspectives on regional environmental, agricultural and horticultural topics from 10 to 11:30 a.m., most Wed. mornings in January and February, in the Visitors Center.
Upcoming Winter Lecture Series dates and topics are:

January 31: Wetland Wonderlands
February 7: Color Theory in Gardening
February 14: Sex in the Garden: Challenges of Daylily Breeding
February 21: Batty Approach to West Nile Protection—Make Mosquitoes the Prey!
February 28: Gardening on the Porch or Patio

Cost is General Admission only: Adults, \$4; Seniors (65), \$3.50. STBGNC members are free.
For reservations or further information, call 361/852-2100.

- Botanica 2007—*WAVES OF GREEN !*, South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center's spring fundraiser, will be from 6-9:30 p.m., Friday, March 2, at the Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center, 402 Port Avenue. Botanica 2007 will include a silent auction, seated dinner and entertainment. Sponsor tables are *Platinum Blossoms Sponsor*, \$10,000; *Golden Leaves Sponsor*, \$5000; *Silver Stems Sponsor*, \$3000; and *Bronze Roots Sponsor*, \$1500. Individual tickets are \$100. For more information, please call Sponsor Chair Judy Creveling, 361/884-6983; or the Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, 361/852-2100.
- **"Birds of the Texas Coastal Bend-101,"** a short course for beginning birders, with acclaimed birder, naturalist and author **Gene Blacklock** of the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, will be offered Saturday, March 3, at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, a Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail site, 8545 S. Staples Street. A lecture will be 8:45 to 11:30 a.m., with a fieldtrip 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Students will study some of the more than 450 known bird species in South Texas. Tuition, which is \$25, \$22 for Botanical Gardens & Nature Center members, must be prepaid at the Visitors Center, by March 1. Class maximum is 30. For more information, call 361/852-2100, or 885-6247.

"Do You Know Your Natives???" Contributed by: USDA-NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center



Roundhead prairie clover (*Dalea multiflora*) which was formerly known under the scientific name of *Petalostemon multiflorus*, and is still found under that name in some books, is a native, perennial member of the Legume (or bean) family. Stems up to 70 cm long grow out from a woody base and may be erect or spreading. The stems and leaves are glabrous, which means they have no hairs. This species has tiny white flowers clustered in spikes that bloom from May to July. The flower spikes are round in shape, which can help distinguish it from the closely related species white prairie clover (*Dalea candida*) that has columnar flower spikes. The fruits are a single seeded pod.

The clusters of small pods resemble a raspberry in appearance while immature. The pods darken, dry out, and are easily stripped from the plant once the seeds are mature. Seeds are slow to germinate if not scarified first.

Roundhead prairie clover is locally abundant in central Texas, east to Harris and Grimes counties, south to Maverick and Nueces counties, and west to



Taylor and Crockett counties. In the Coastal Bend it is found occasionally on heavier soils in openings or along bluffs, slopes and ravines.

The E. "Kika" De La Garza Plant Materials Center is currently looking for more collections of this species.

Info Sources: *Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas* - Correll and Johnston, 1996 and research performed at the PMC



Calendar

- Feb 1st - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker is Dr. Roy L. Lehman
- March 1st - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- April 5th - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- May 3rd - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.

Chapter Contacts

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State Web Site www.npsot.org